Northampton & Citizen

Thursday, August 19, 2010

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Foster carer Clive Stewart was jailed for seven-and-ahalf years for indecency with girls in his care between 1991



Plans to convert a former post office in Bushland Road in Headlands into a takeaway have sparked a number of objections from people nearby



Clampers have insisted they are not all rogues after the Government announced plans to outlaw cowboy clampers'



Hospital's food facing taste tests

VISITORS were asked to add the secret ingredient of Northampton General Hospital's excellent-rated menu at a special tasting session... feedback.

Meals for patients at Northamp-ton General Hospital were rated 'excellent' by inspectors in a recent survey of NHS food.

But catering managers believe the key to having high standards is regularly asking for opinions and they aim to stage regular free sample sessions, such as the one held on Tuesday near the Billing Road entrance.

Steve Short, a catering supervisor, said: "All of what we put on the menus, or have taken off, is based on information from people. It's all about feedback from patients who have tasted our food."

He added: "We regularly go to

different departments at all levels and get them to taste our dishes."

Catering bosses said they were well aware of the negative stereotype that hospital food often carries but Northampton General Hospital is trying to exceed rather

than match people's expectations.

Ricardo Hoyte, catering manager, said: "We are aiming to raise awareness among visitors about the real quality of hospital food nowadays. We want to change

their perceptions.
"When there's such a wide choice of hospitals to be treated at, the quality of food could be the difference between choosing NGH and somewhere else.'

A team of just four chefs, two catering assistants and a porter

> Reporter Nick Spoors gives his verdict on the dishes available to sample: Here are his favourites:

Steak and Kidney Pie:

Although slightly salty, deserves its place as the number one choice of patients. Plenty of tender meat and crumbly pastry made this a winner.

Chicken, Ham and Mushroom Pie:

Creamy, soup-like sauce with

per week, 95 per cent of which are prepared at Northampton Gener-al Hospital then reheated at meal

There are also about 50 different choices of main meal to be had for an in-patient staying on a ward for a week. However that does not stop the hospital from focusing on the 'comfort foods' - the likes of steak and kidney pie or spaghetti bolognese – that patients are most likely to have at home.

> chunky generous meat and that fabulous pastry.

Lamb Rogan Josh:

Expected some spice but no kick at all. Instead, a strong but pleasant tomato flavour and very well-cooked lamb.

Sweet and sour veg:

Not crunchy, like you would expect, and a extra-tangy sauce means you need to be a Chinese food fan to like this. I am, however.



Northampton General Hospital which has received praise CE picture by LOUISE SMITH

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Caitlin Behan, pictured here several years ago, has been chosen to read a prayer with the Pope

Caitlin reads for the Pope

A SURVIVOR of a rare condition blood from Northampton has been selected to read a prayer with the Pope in front of tens of thousands of people in Hyde Park.

Caitlin Behan, aged 13, from Westone, was helped by the Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust (HCPT) charity following her recovery from Fanconi's anaemia in 2004.

The brave youngster was asked to carry the charity's banner at the Hyde Park vigil when Pope Benedict XVI comes to the UK on a state visit.

But after organisers learned

of her story from the charity, Caitlin was invited to take to the stage with the Pope in front of up to 80,000 people in Hyde Park and a TV audience.

She will read a liturgy, which will involve her reading the Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus with the Pope answering each

Liam Connoly, a member of the committee of Northampton Cathedral, and chairman of the Northampton branch of HCPT, said: "Caitlin has been on our annual trips to Lourdes where she does readings and does others every week so she's very capa-

"But this is one of the main

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readings in the event. It's a big part for her. She's very lucky.

Caitlin was told she had a rare blood disorder, Fanconi's anaemia, aged six, and her diagnosis sparked the search for a bone marrow transplant.

Although a donor was not found, her condition was eventually cured in 2004 using stem cells taken from an umbilical cord in

Mum Bernie said: "I think she was chosen partly because of her illness and partly because she's an experienced reader.

"She's quite excited about it all but a bit nervous because of the occasion. We're very proud



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Gina Conopo has been jailed for 16 months for £80,000 benefit fraud

Picture courtesy of Anglia News

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Former cop jailed

A SPECIAL constable with Northamptonshire Police has been jailed for 16 months after fraudulently claiming nearly £80,000 in benefits.

Gina Conopo started claiming income support and housing and council tax benefit legitimately in 1999 when she and husband separated, Northampton Crown Court heard

But when they got back together, the mother-of-two failed to notify authorities and carried on claiming.

The court heard for a period of just over seven years, Conopo, of Grasscroft, Long

Buckby, fraudulently claimed £46,321.27 in income support and £33,267.48 in council and housing tax benefit. The 40-year-old pleaded guilty to two counts of failing to notify a change of circumstances on the first day of a trial in June.

Prosecutor Adam Western said: "The change of circumstances of which she should have informed the Department of Work and Pensions and Daventry Council is that her husband Simon Conopo was living with her again. The period of which she should have informed the department and council is just over seven years."

He said Conopo had been sent regular leaflets reminding her to notify of any

changes regarding her benefits, but she had not. $\,$

Mr Western said the couple also made a joint application for credit in 2006, in which Conopo said she was married, and they had a joint income of £35,000. The court heard since she was discovered Conopo, who has resigned from the force, had repaid just over £4,500 of the debts and was planning to repay £500 per month.

Steven Evans, mitigating, said: "This is a great fall from grace for somebody who lives in a small community.

"This was not to fund a lavish lifestyle, this was to survive financially," he added



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Staff try to set world records

BARCLAYCARD workers have attempted to chew, chomp and slurp their way into the record books by eating Jaffa Cakes, crackers and jelly.

Employees at the Northamp-ton-based firm took part in a Guinness Book of Records charity challenge at their Brackmills offices on Friday to raise money

natal death society.

Workers attempted to eat as much jelly as possible in one minute using chopsticks, hold as many eggs in one hand as possible and eat the most Jaffa Cakes in one minute.

Other unusual challenges included finishing three cream crackers as quickly as possible and eating as many After Eights in 60 seconds.

Sands after two Barclaycard employees were helped by the charity. They raised £9,000.

Phil Vickers, head of special investigations at Barclaycard, whose team organised the event, said: "Today has been a huge suc-

"We've had lots of fun and more importantly have raised awareness and lots of money for a cause which is very close to our





holding as many eggs as you can in one hand CE picture by LOUISE SMITH



84-88 Lutterworth Road, Abington, (off wellingborough rd) Northampton, NN1 5JN

OAP, 74, mauled by two dogs

A PENSIONER and his pet dog were mauled by two loose Staffordshire bull terriers in a prolonged and terrifying attack.

The dog walker, believed to be a local man aged 74, was attacked and repeatedly bitten by the two animals in an alleyway between Market Street and Kettering Road, in Northampton.

Eyewitness say they heard screams of terror from the victim, who is understood to have bent down to pick up his dog after the bull terriers tried to attack his pet at around 8.30am on Friday.

He then fell over, allowing the two animals to set upon him as he lay defenceless, clutching his own dog, which neighbours described as "small dog" and a breed of

Terrified passers-by tried to stop the attack, which went on for around 10 minutes, by poking the two dogs with sticks and even offering them cat food.

One eye witness said she heard the man's screams while she was in her garden.

She said: "I heard a man screaming for help. I went round the corner and I saw him laying on the floor on his back holding his dog and the two terriers were just biting at his dog and at him.

"He was just screaming 'get them off, get them off'. They had their teeth in the dog and in the man and they just weren't going to let go.

"The noise was frightening, it really was. It went on for about 10 minutes. They were just mauling him."

Eventually the two dogs, one male and one female, called off their attack and sat peacefully next to their victim "as if nothing had happened"

until the police arrived.

The victim was then taken to Northampton General Hospital for treatment to wounds to his hands, while his pet dog was taken to a vet for treat-

The two Staffordshire bull terriers were collected and taken to a nearby dog centre.

Another eyewitness, who asked not to be named, said: You don't let a dog like that out on its own. I just hope the poor victim gets some justice."

Last week a police spokesman revealed a 26-year-old man had been arrested on suspicion of allowing them to be loose in a public place.

The spokesman said: "Police were called just after 8.30am after the dogs attacked a man who was out walking his dog.

"The dogs initially attacked the man's dog and as he bent down to pick the dog up, he lost his balance, at which point the two dogs attacked

"The 74-year-old man has been taken to Northampton General Hospital with non life-threatening injuries, and his dog has been taken to the PDSA surgery. The two Staffordshire bull terriers are being taken to Forest Lodge Kennels."

Witnesses to the attack, or anyone with information, can call Northamptonshire Police on 03000 111 222.

Alternatively, Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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resulted in her boyfriend spending four hours in a police cell was given a suspended sentence to "hang over her".

A WOMAN who made a false

allegation of assault which

Joanna Blackwell, aged 41, thanked the judge for not sending her to prison as she left the dock of North-ampton Crown Court having admitted perverting the course of justice.

Blackwell, of Park Drive, Kings Heath, admitted lying about being beaten up when

she made a 999 call on June 25. The court heard she had previously been cautioned in August last year after she made 14 emergency calls to police.

Sentencing, Judge Christopher Metcalf said: "A stop has to be put to this and you really have got to have some." thing hanging over you." She was sentenced to four months' imprisonment, suspended for two years, with a year's probation supervision and 60 hours' community service.

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An artist's impression of the new building, William Wake House, which St Andrew's Healthcare says will create around 400 jobs and is expected to open in December with all of the jobs in place by the end of next year



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St Andrew's Healthcare, the charity which runs St Andrew's Hospital, off Billing Road, is constructing a new building to house a range of services including those for people with learning disabili-ties, Asperger's syndrome, brain injuries and hearing problems.

The building - called William Wake House – is set for completion in December and the charity hopes to employ about 400 staff there, almost a sixth of its current workforce, by December 2011.

Rachael Jackson, the hospital's director, said: "The charity works closely with the NHS and this latest impressive facility here at Northampton will provide some of St Andrew's most specialist services to date.'

This 132-bed secure unit, on the old Cliftonville School site, is a state of the art mental health facility, with eight wards, therapy and leisure facilities. It has been given a Georgian-style façade to be in keeping with the style of other buildings on the St Andrew's site.

More than 150 staff will be appointed at William Wake House by December 2010 with the remainder in place by December 2011. Specialist roles will be advertised for psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, physiotherapists, occupational therapists as well as ward management staff and nurses. Other workers sought will include healthcare assistants, teachers, secretaries and kitchen catering and housekeeping staff.



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Work starts at roundabout

A SEVEN-MONTH, £5.3m project to reduce congestion on what is arguably Northampton's busiest section of road, starts this week.

Contractors will begin work on the A45 Barnes Meadow interchange in a scheme which will also create a multiple occupancy vehicle lane, part of an overall drive to develop bus reliability, improve road safety and bring environmental benefits.

The project, which is being spearheaded by Northamptonshire County Council and funded by the Government, will eventually reduce the time it takes to make the journey from Wellingborough and Earls Barton into Northampton using a number of ways including the dedicated lane for cars carrying more than one person on the A45 w

than one person on the A45 westbound off the slip approaching Barnes Meadow.

There will also be traffic light improvements on bus routes from Wellingborough and Earls Barton into Northampton, extra lanes on the actual Barnes Meadow roundabout and new traffic lights on the Rushmere Road entry to



Work to improve the Barnes Meadow roundabout started this week

the roundabout, a section which is frequently clogged up in the morning rush hour as cars try to enter the interchange.

Typically, the roundabout, where the A45 and the A428 meet, sees around 7,000 vehicles passing through it during the morning and evening rush hour.

Councillor Heather Smith, county council cabinet member

for transport, minerals and waste, said: "I'm confident these measures will reduce congestion, by improving the overall capacity of the intersection, as well as encouraging bus travel and car sharing, which will in turn be of benefit in reducing carbon emissions and improving the local environment."

The project is due for completion in March 2011. Existing traffic lanes will be narrowed and work will be carried out behind a temporary concrete barrier.

Vehicle access to the recreation area at Midsummer Meadow from Bedford Road will be closed for one year.

The landowner, Northampton Borough Council, has allowed the area to used as a site office. This area had offered some limited, free, daytime and evening park-

ing for people using the riverside area but this will not be the case while the works are taking place.

A detailed traffic management programme of works is available on the Northamptonshire County Council website at http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Transport/TP/Pages/NBRT.aspx



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Campaigners go on march

CAMPAIGNERS desperate to halt plans to build a high-speed railway line that could run through Northamptonshire will take to the countryside next month to raise awareness of what could be lost if the project goes ahead.

Plans for the 248mph line between Birmingham and London, which would run close to a number of villages and towns in the south of the county, were revealed by the Government last year.

Organised by South Northamptonshire resident Liz Williams, the WalkHS2 – Walk The Line Weekend will see concerned residents take to the fields and paths of the countryside along the proposed route to highlighted sites of historical importance and natural

beauty that could be destroyed or permanently ruined by the

She said: "We are walking to raise public awareness about the proposed route and we are encouraging people who live near the line, or who are interested in the countryside of Britain, to get out on the weekend of September 10 to 12 to walk part of the route near them. We want people to see where the route will go and see what's at risk and then decide whether they think it is worth the loss. So we're inviting people to bring their children, bring their dogs, enjoy the countryside and see what's at stake."

The Walk HS2 – Walk The Line Weekend will take place between September 10 and 12.





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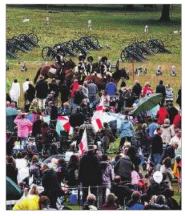
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Thunderous Proms night

of classical music and entertainment was enjoyed by thousands at Althorp in torrential downpours.

The annual Battle Proms concert on Saturday at the historic estate saw the New English Concert Orchestra play Elgar and other strident Last Night at the Proms favourites accompanied by similarly dramatic weather.

The famously boisterous 1812 Overture was accomapnied by both the traditional planned cannon fire, but also rolls of thunder, to cheers from beneath brollies and Union flags still proudly

Cavalry and musket displays were also performed to a back-drop of lightning lancing across the evening sky eliciting loud gasps from the audience.

For the spectators, however, the most British of celebrations could seemingly not be dampened by mere meteorological conditions.

Steven Hopkins, aged 38, from Daventry, said: "You can't get more sterotypically British than sitting with a cup of tea in a country estate listening to Elgar in the pouring rain.

"I feel strangely patriotic despite it all."



In fact the clouds did part early on, just enough for a Spitfire to squeeze through and delight the crowd with loops and rolls to accompany the opening musical pieces in the concert arena.

Then as the heavens opened up so too did the superb instruments on stage and the mesmerising vocals of soloist Denise Leigh.

Although hours of unrelenting rain eventually led to some leaving early, those who stayed to the end stood and patriotically belted out Jerusalem and Rule Britan-

Jezz Botterill of Kingsthorpe, Northampton, said: "The enthu-siasm of everyone here made it a great experience.



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And hungry youngsters are well catered for, with the restaurant's new-look Kids Counter offering chicken nuggets, mini burgers, sausages and fish fingers at lunch times until the end of the summer. All children under 10 can eat for

Red Hot World Buffet is a restaurant that raises the bar for buffets everywhere. Not only is the food varied, but the decor is striking and luxurious - and located at Sixfields it couldn't be more

handy for that perfect meal after a trip to the football, a night out at the cinema or an evening bowling with friends.

And while the restaurant is renowned for its variety it also prides itself on quality. The food is prepared using fresh ingredients and the live cooking stations not only provide an entertaining way to dine out but scrumptious food cooked before

The Japanese noodle bar, fruit flame and pasta stations are increasingly popular along with the dessert options for anyone with a sweet tooth.

Specialities include the fresh ice cream made in-house at the bakery station which is not to be missed



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Balloon festival set for launch

A MASSIVE glass-bottomed hot air balloon shaped like a smokebreathing dragon will the Northdominate ampton skyline this weekend.

The 61ft tall balloon, which is the biggest of its kind in the world, is one of 40 taking part in the Northampton Balloon Festival from Friday to Sunday at Billing Aquadrome.

With a body measuring 116ft and a 44m tail, the dragon is longer than five double-decker buses parked end to end and taller than an eight storey building.

Visitors to the festival will be able to enjoy a flight in the balloon between 6am and 6pm on all three days of the festival and will be able to see it lit up on Saturday night durng the "Evening Glow" event.

Debbie Thompson-Brown, one of the organisers of the festival, said she was expecting tens of thousands of visitors over the course of the weekend. She said: "It's going to be absolutely magical with dozens of balloons of all shapes and colours taking to the skies over Northamptonshire. We're just praying for good weather now.

Paul Komuro, a market-ing consultant to Palletways Group, the owners of the balloon, said: "Balloons are a spectacle and are proven to be a great way to achieving strong brand recognition cost effectively. Our member companies across the UK, including those in Northampton, will be using the balloon at local level to build relationships with customers and prospective businesses. We are looking forward to seeing the impact of taking our brands to a whole new level.

Tickets cost £2 on the gate, which also gives entry to an American Car Show being held on Saturday and Sunday.



The magnificent hot-air balloon shaped like a dragon is due to take part in the Northampton Balloon Festival



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A combination of a 'Big Freeze' winter. rising fuel costs and the drive towards reducing our carbon footprint, means we're all looking for new ways to stay warm while keeping costs down. And a new survey shows energy-efficiency is top of the list for home-buyers too. The Plikington energiKare™ ™OT Your Home' research reveals that 76 per cent of homebuyers now rate it as a major deciding factor when purchasing property. Loft insulation, an energy-efficient boiler, energy-efficient heating, energy-efficient windows and cavity insulation were the five fittings most

- of us were concerned with. 1. Loft insulation (80 per cent)
- 2. Energy efficient boiler (79 per cent)
- 3. Energy efficient heating (74 per cent) 4. Energy efficient windows (73 per cent)
- 5. Cavity insulation (62 per cent) But as we weigh up the cost of one of the coldest winters for 30 years and wait for our updated fuel bill to arrive there are some simple steps we can all take to make our homes more energy and cost-efficient.

with Pilkington to suggest changes we can all make. As he says: "If's reassuring to know that more and more people are taking their home and their carbon footprint seriously. after all our homes are the biggest investments we are ever likely to make. What's important is that people are taking steps to change and recognising the added value greener living brings, such as cost savings and increasing the saleability of homes, "Installing good-quality loft installation is one of the most effective energy-saving jobs homeowners can do, which is good news as 80 per cent of homebuyers in this survey consider it the most important green factor when buying a new home. You could chop a whopping £150 annually off the average energy bill by installing insulation that is 270mm thick. "Another big saving over time is replacing the windows with more energy-efficient glazing. This can out fuel bills by 20 per cent over their lifetime. Pilkington energiKare™ glazing. for example, can reduce heat

loss by up to 90 per cent,

compared to single-glazed windows, and at the same time

TV presenter and architect, George

Clarke best-known for Channel 4's

The Home Show - has teamed up



allow in more heat from the sun. Even turning down the thermostat and fitting energy saving light bulbs can make a difference and be done instantly and cost effectively." The research carried out about by Pilkington energiKare™ also revealed that the installation of solar panels and self-cleaning windows were two of the most popular areas for home improvement among homeowners looking to add

value by going green,

Marketing Communications Manager at Pilkington comments: This last winter has certainly led more people to re-evaluate the energy efficiency of their homes and it's encouraging to see that despite the recent recession, people are continuing to place sustainable living high on their agenda." Upgrading from

Julia Berkin.

single glazing to Pilkington energiKareTM energy efficient double-glazing could save more than £10,000 in fuel bills over the lifetime of the windows. Promising energy-efficient solutions for every style of home, the advanced glazing technology reduces the amount of heat lost through windows while allowing more heat from the sun in helping to create a warmer environment. This offsets the normal central heating used to heat the home.



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ALREADIN

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21st Birthday Kiss from Mike & Family

Acknowledgements BAKER

Valerie Ann

Ann and Vicki wish to thank everyone for the lovely cards, flowers and donations and for being there for us A very special thank you to Fiona, Bob, Marc and Colin and Northampton and Leicester Hospitals Also to Reverend Brian Stewens and to S.E. Wilkinsons for all their kindness God bless you all.

SPENCER

John James

14/09/23 - 26/07/2010

The Family would like to thank everyone involved in the celebration of this beloved gentleman's life. Chank you for all the support the lovely

support, the lovely cards and generous

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to The Rainbow Trust. When you think of him please smile.

60th Birthday

RAY HODGSON

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Frank

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Employee Development Executive (NVQ Assessor) - Motor Vehicle Maintenance

Ref: ME/137/C

£19,861 - £24,053 pa Based at Westbury Court Interview date: 9th September 2010.

Catering Stores Technician Rof: MF/132/C

£8,608 - £8,989 pa

25 hours per week, 38 - 39 weeks per year Interview date: 8th September 2010.

Job share may be considered for these posts.

These posts will require a CRB check.

Closing date for both roles: (Noon), 25th August 2010.

For further information and an application form, please go to www.northamptoncollege.ac.uk or ring the Recruitment line on: 01604 734039. Alternatively you can email us at recruitment@northamptoncollege.ac.uk

www.northamptoncollege.ac.uk

We strive to achieve diversity in our staff to reflect the community we serve.

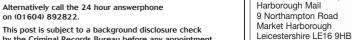












by the Criminal Records Bureau before any appointment can be confirmed. Quote Ref: TM09164

Closing date: 20 August 2010. Interview date: 7 September 2010.

For an information pack please visit www.northampton.ac.uk/about/jobs

or Email: per.apply@northampton.ac.uk

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The Access Ability Team in Student Administration and

Services promotes equality and access to the university

The Access Ability team is looking to employ part time

hourly-paid staff to provide effective support to enable

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depend on your availability and student demand.

possibility of electronic note-taking, library research

support and other 'enabling' on campus support. You

will not be required to carry out personal care tasks.

You will be able to demonstrate excellent communication and interpersonal skills, initiative, good time management,

note-taking and ICT skills, together with a commitment to

For an informal discussion about the post please contact

enabling disabled students to achieve their potential.

Jayne Hey, Access Ability Team Leader on (01604)

892258 or email Jayne.Hey@northampton.ac.uk

This role includes note-taking in lectures with a

This role may be of particular interest to

(£10.23 - £12.21 per hour)

for all disabled students

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Yorkshire Event Centre 9-10 Oct

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The University of Northampton as an employer strives to achieve diversity among its staff which reflects the communities it serves.



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Mentaur is an independent company that provides support and care for adults with learning disabilities. We have been based in Northamptonshire for the past twenty two years.

Head Office Vacancy Administrative Officer

Salary £6.25 - £7.25 per hr depending on qualifications and experience 37.5 hours per week 9.00am - 4.30pm (flexible by request)

Applicants should have GCSE grade C or above in Maths & English, proficiency in written and spoken English and excellent interpersonal and communication skills. Applicants should also have good IT skills (including word processing and Excel). Accuracy and attention to detail is essential, as is a tactful and confidential approach. You should have good organisational skills and the ability to work as a team member.

Please contact Vicky Mann, HR Manager on 01604 777 858 or email your CV to vickymann@mentaur.ltd.uk

Closing date: Monday 23rd August 2010.

Position is subject to an enhanced disclosure check with the Criminal Records Bureau & P.O.V.A register. Mentaur is an equal opportunities employer.

Office Manager

show

Intec Business Colleges plc is one of the country's leading work based learning providers. The company delivers Apprenticeships, NVQ's and Train to Gain contracts throughout the UK.

We wish to appoint an Office Manager to be responsible for providing and managing an efficient, effective and co-ordinated administrative function across the Company.

Possessing excellent interpersonal skills, ideally you will be educated to A level/NVQ level 3, with previous experience of working within the further education sector and preferably have experience in systems such as PICS. An up-to-date knowledge of FE funding would be advantageous.

If you can bring a strong commitment to achieving targets and have the drive and ambition to be part of our successful team, we would like to hear from you. A job description and person specification is

The salary will be circa £25,000. Interviews will be held on Thursday 9th September at our Head Office in central Rugby.

The closing date for applications is Thursday 26th August, please apply by letter and enclose an up to date CV to: Sue Wright, Personnel Administrator, Intec Business Colleges, Old School, Pennington Court, Rugby CV21 2BB or email: sue.wright@getoncourse.net



www.getoncourse.net

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Amanda Palfrev

Deputy Advertising Manager Email: amanda.palfrey@harboroughmail.co.uk Harborough Mail 9 Northampton Road Market Harborough

Closing date: Friday 27th August

Tel: 01858 436060

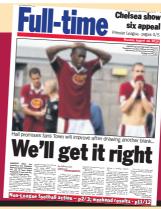
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Sport



COBBLERS assistant boss Malcolm Crosby has revealed the club's bid to bring in new players 'does not look like happen-

Town were hoping to bring some new blood into their squad this week, with manager Ian Sampson still looking to recruit a striker to his ranks.

The side have failed to score in their first two npower League Two games of the season, although they were on target in a 2-0 Carling Cup first-round win over Brighton & Hove Albion.

That statistic had increased the urgency for a new forward, with Sampson confirming at the weekend that the scouting net had been cast to include players from abroad.

But Crosby says bringing someone in is now unlikely, and the chances of anyone leaving Sixfields are also re-

"We understand how tight things are everywhere and we would obviously like to get a couple of players in because you always want to improve your squad," he said.

"But at the moment I can't see that happening, so we move on and just get on with the players we've already got

"If everybody's fit it's a good little squad here, and one that can do very well in this league. I wouldn't thought anybody would be leaving and we know there's no money to buy players so if we do get someone in it'll have to be on a free transfer."

Crosby says, with any potential recruitment avenues now looking like dead ends, the emphasis will be on getting the best out of the players already on the books at Sixfields.

As things stand only one of the four strikers in the squad - Billy McKay has scored in the three games the team has played this year.

"I wouldn't build our hopes up on that (bringing a player in from abroad)," he

"What we've got to do is concentrate on the players that we have here and then if anything does happen then it would be great for the club and for the

The Cobblers will be hoping to break their scoring duck in the league this Saturday when they travel to Gigg Lane to take on Bury (ko 3pm).

Murray will still be key Saints man SAINTS boss Jim Mallinder says Euan Murray's self-imposed Sunday exile will make the prop 'very destructive' this season.

Devout Christian Murray will not play on the Sabbath due to his faith, meaning he will miss at least six of his side's first 17 games including the Aviva Premiership curtain-raiser

against Leicester Tigers at Franklin's Gardens on September 5. And the ever-increasing influence of broadcasters Sky and ESPN could see

more games played on Sundays come

the second half of the season. Scotland ace Murray will also have international commitments to contend with as the season progresses, leaving Saints without their first-choice tight-

head prop for a prolonged period. But with Brian Mujati providing able cover, as he did in the LV= Cup final victory against Gloucester in March, director of rugby Mallinder says there is no issue with Murray missing matches due to his beliefs.

And he feels Saints will reap the benefits of having one of their most influential players fit and firing for selected encounters.

Mallinder said: "We went into the

contract with that knowledge. He made us very aware and we accepted his position.

'Our position is we've got three good tight-heads in our squad and we'd rather have Euan in our squad being able to play when he can, than

not have Euan in our squad at all.
"We're happy with the situation,
we've known all along that that's the situation and of course you want every player in your squad available all of the time, but these days that doesn't happen in rugby any more.

'You don't have all of your squad available to play in every single game.'

Saints are back in pre-season action tomorrow night when they take on DAX at Capbreton in the south west of France.

They then play their first home friendly against Nottingham at Franklin's Gardens on Monday (7.30pm)



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